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August 10, 2002

Dear Friend:

I am pleased to invite you to the next Virginia Economic Development Seminar on Wednesday, September 11, 2002 at the Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanfront in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The September seminar will focus on Virginia companies that are *Achieving Success on a Global Scale*. Please join us on this anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, as we recognize and rededicate ourselves to the continued vitality of global commerce.

Founded initially as the Virginia Trading Company, Virginia has traditionally relied on exports as a major contributor to our economy. This conference will showcase Virginia companies who are succeeding in exporting both goods and services. Attendees will hear why these companies are involved in international trade, how they have succeeded, and the benefits they are receiving. We are pleased to have Scott Keim with Marshall Miller & Associates joining us as our keynote luncheon speaker to speak about how his company is working with Asian American Coal, Inc. to introduce safe mining practices in China. Asian American Coal is the only foreign-controlled company to hold both a business license and a mining permit to mine coal in the Peoples Republic of China. Many thanks to the Division of International Trade at the Virginia Economic Development Partnership for their help developing the agenda.

I would also like to cordially invite you to a reception for the seminar attendees on Tuesday evening, September 10, sponsored by The Global Law Group, CV International, The Language Group, and Allegheny Brokerage Company. The reception will be held from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on the back patio (Mariner's Court) of the Ramada Plaza Resort, which overlooks the beach. In the case of inclement weather, the reception will be held in the foyer of the Atlantic Ballroom. Please indicate on the enclosed registration form if you plan on attending this great networking opportunity.

If you would like to attend the seminar, please register early by completing and returning the enclosed form with the **\$50.00** registration fee to our office. If you need overnight accommodations, rooms have been blocked at the Ramada Plaza at the group rate of **\$109.00** until the **cut-off date of August 10** or until all rooms in the block are reserved. This discount room rate is available from Saturday, September 7, through Saturday, September 14, based on availability, should you wish to extend your stay to enjoy Virginia Beach. Please call the Ramada Plaza directly at **(757) 428-7025** and identify yourself as part of the **Virginia Economic Development Seminar** group when you call. Directions to the Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanfront are enclosed for your reference. I hope you will be able to join us to hear about this important strategy for economic development in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Charlie H. Mills III
Agency Director